

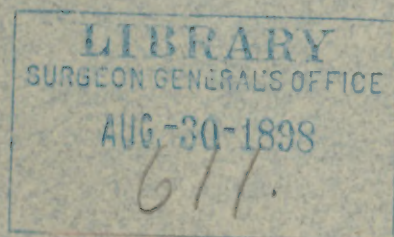
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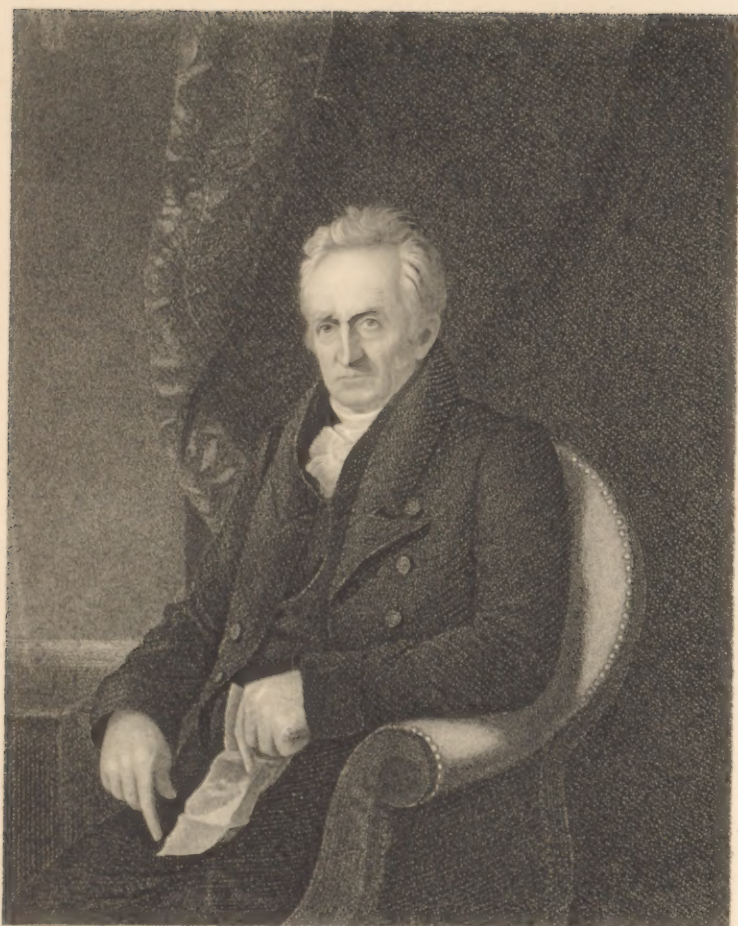
DARTMOUTH
MEDICAL COLLEGE
AND
NATHAN SMITH.

An Historical Discourse,

BY

OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M. D., LL. D.





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NATHAN SMITH, M.D.

LATE PROF. OF SURGERY AND THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC

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THE EARLY HISTORY
OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE
MEDICAL INSTITUTION,

WITH A SKETCH OF ITS FOUNDER,

NATHAN SMITH, A. M., M. D.,
Professor of Medicine,

BEING A

LECTURE INTRODUCTORY

TO THE

EIGHTY-THIRD COURSE OF MEDICAL LECTURES,

AT

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE,

JULY 31, 1879,

By OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M. D., LL. D.,
Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy,

AND READ BY REQUEST BEFORE THE

New Hampshire Medical Society at their Semi-
Annual Meeting, at Hanover,
Sept. 17, 1879.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
THE GLOBE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1880.

A LECTURE INTRODUCTORY
TO THE
Eighty-third Course of the New Hampshire Medical Institution,

At Dartmouth College, July 31, 1879.

By OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M. D., LL. D.,

*Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.**

GENTLEMEN:

It having fallen to me in turn to give the lecture introductory to our annual course of instruction, I offer you such brief notes as the limit of the hour permits, upon a subject of real and permanent importance to us all—The Origin of the New Hampshire Medical Institution. This school has a history and a career as honorable as any. Its early instructors were eminent men, faithful and laborious in their day and generation, who blessed mankind. It is one of the oldest medical schools in this country, there being now but two of earlier date;† its courses of instruction have never been interrupted, and it has every year sent forth its graduates to extend its reputation and influence. It was organized in the last century—so long ago that the reminiscences of its early history and of its eminent founder are faint, and fast passing away, and on this account my colleagues have more than

*This lecture was read before the New Hampshire Medical Society at their semi-annual meeting, at Hanover, N. H., Sept. 17, 1879, and a copy was requested for publication in their Proceedings.

1765 †That of Harvard College, 1783, and of the University of Pennsylvania, 1791. The College of Physicians and Surgeons, of New York, 1807, is fourth in age, (N. S. Davis, M. D., Contributions to the History of Medical Education, &c., in the United States,) and has its 73d annual course October 1, 1879.

once requested me to prepare a memorial sketch of the school for an occasion like the present.

In compliance with this request, I have attempted, with the aid of some scattered, fragmentary documents,* and communications from a few surviving friends and pupils, to furnish a concise account of the men† who were chiefly concerned in its founding, and in giving it character and reputation during the first forty years of its existence—from 1797 to 1837. Those persons, who, as pioneers of important enterprises, or as founders of useful and valuable institutions, have conferred permanent benefits upon the country or a community, deserve to have their labors commemorated and their memory kept green—at least in the institutions they have established.

The preparation of this sketch has afforded me great pleasure, and has impressed me with a deep sense of the value and unselfishness of their lives and of the weighty obligations laid upon us, their successors in office, to emulate their zeal and devotion; and upon you, young gentlemen, to follow in their footsteps, that by a patient continuance in well-doing you may reap their reward.

To weigh rightly the events of early times and the motives that gave rise to them, we must, as far as possible, place ourselves in the circumstances of the actors. Before the War of the Revolution, and as early as the French war, so called, these regions were known and had become attractive to many enterprising inhabitants of the older provinces of Massa-

*The most important are "An Eulogium on Nathan Smith, M. D., late Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Surgery in the Medical Institution of Yale College, pronounced at his funeral by Jonathan Knight, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

"New Haven, 1829."

†An address occasioned by the death of Nathan Smith, M. D., First Lecturer in the Medical School of Maine, at Bowdoin College, by William Allen, D. D., President of Bowdoin College.

"Brunswick, 1829."

These will be freely quoted as Prof. K. and Pres. A.

‡These were Nathan Smith, Lyman Spalding, Cyrus Perkins, Reuben D. Mussey, Daniel Oliver, James F. Dana, Usher Parsons, Benjamin Hale. A notice of Dr. Smith only was read to the New Hampshire Medical Society, and of the others to the class in successive lectures.

chusetts and Connecticut, who for various reasons sought here a new home. Townships had been surveyed and divided and proprietors' rights offered for sale in all the older settlements. By the immigration of some of their best citizens and families there was a transfer to these new regions of the same powerful energy which had characterized the early English settlers, with the added experience of one hundred and fifty years. They were at times exposed to the hostile incursions of the Indians from the North, and always had to encounter the difficulties and deprivations attending the subjugation of a heavily wooded country, whose magnificent forests indicated the strength of the soil beneath.*

Rev. Eleazer Wheelock,† a distinguished and benevolent clergyman, had, since about 1752, conducted at Lebanon, Conn., a private charitable enterprise for the education of Indian youth, called from an early benefactor,‡ “Moor's Indian Charity School.”

This school he desired, for its greater usefulness, to remove to a favorable locality nearer the Indians, and also to found a college in connection with it, for general education in the new country.

His intentions and inquiries were widely published, and attracted much attention, and he received liberal offers of land and privileges from Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

The offer from New Hampshire seemed the most advantageous, and was accepted; large grants and gifts of land from the governor and individuals were secured; a liberal charter for “Dartmouth College” was obtained from the Honorable

*The pines at Hanover were from 250 to 270 feet high.—Life of Wheelock.

†Graduate of Yale, 1733, and the first “Scholar of the House” on the “Berkeley Fund,” S. T. D. Edinburgh Univ., 1767, born at Windham, Conn., April 22, 1711, died at Hanover, April 24, 1779, and his son, Col. John Wheelock, succeeded him and presided 36 years. He was great-grandson of Ralph Wheelock, of Shropshire, in England, a graduate of Clare Hall, Cambridge, 1626, who came soon after to Dedham and Medfield, Mass.

‡Joshua More, who gave “about two acres of pasturing and a small house and shop” in Lebanon.

John Wentworth, Governor of the Province, in 1769; and late in the autumn of 1770 President Wheelock came with his family and pupils and a few settlers, cleared off the forest from some six acres, where is now "the Common" of Hanover, built their log cabins in the wilderness, organized the college, with its four classes, under their several tutors, and laid the foundations of a civil and religious society whose line has gone forth into all the earth. The two institutions grew apace, and the college soon became a center of light and knowledge to the surrounding region.

The Indian school, by reason of the removal and fading away of the Aborigines, has now nearly vanished, while the college, with its several departments, holds rank among the first in our country.

We, of this generation and of this school, have abundant cause to remember this resolute, far-seeing, eminent founder, who planted the germ of the vigorous stock upon which, within thirty years, was to be engrafted by a fellow-worker, a bud of a kindred species of intellectual fruitage—even the New Hampshire Medical Institution, whose eighty-third course of lectures opens to-day—just one hundred years from the death of President Eleazer Wheelock, and fifty years from the death of Nathan Smith.

The history of this school begins, and during all its early years is identified, with the life of Nathan Smith, its founder and supporter.

The tide of emigration, about the time of Wheelock, had brought from Rehoboth, Mass., his parents and family, who had settled in Chester, Vermont, at the eastern foot of the Green Mountains. This son was born at Rehoboth, September 30, 1762. His father was a respectable farmer of moderate pecuniary resources.

His youth was passed in the usual routine of a farm life, with the stimulating amusements of a new country, hunting* and fishing, of which he was fond in mature life, with only

* "A propensity or taste which found its gratification amongst the wild fowl of Casco Bay," when lecturing at Bowdoin.—Pres. A., p. 9.

the ordinary means of education in the district schools in the winter; and the additional discipline of teaching, at times, himself, and he made good use of his opportunities.

Happy is the man who has, in his youth in the country, become familiar with the seasons and their occupations, from seed time to harvest, and with the no less manly and invigorating pursuits of the winter; who knows all the shrubs and trees of the forest, and the streams that water them, and their various inhabitants; who has observed the laws of life and has developed a true humanity by his kind and faithful care of domestic animals, and a sound judgment from his varied experience.

I do not know a better discipline for the training of boys, physically and morally, thereby securing that most desirable, indispensable equilibrium of forces, styled the "*Mens sana in corpore sano*." Very few incidents of Smith's early life have come down to us.

When still a youth, near the close of the Revolutionary War, he served with the Vermont militia* who were stationed on the northern frontier to protect the inhabitants against the incursions of the Indians, in which service he encountered the risks of Indian warfare and the hardships incident to this life in the wilderness, in common with thousands of the inhabitants. We may presume that young Smith had developed marked traits of character, patience, courage, industry, perseverance, self-reliance, and integrity, which, under genial and favorable circumstances, were to give him a decided superiority over his fellow-men; but surrounded by this very limited horizon or environment, there seemed little chance for him to show what he might become in changed conditions.

We have all observed how an unexpected, and it may be a seemingly trivial incident, may give a new direction to and change the purpose of a whole life. Such a new direction

* "Vermont conducted its military operations during the war independent of the United States."—Noah Webster's *Am. Selections*, 3d part, 122 ed., 1793.

was given to Mr. Smith's career when he was about twenty-one years of age,* by his being present accidentally, or shall we not say Providentially, when Dr. Josiah Goodhue, of Putney, Vt.—for many years the most celebrated surgeon in this upper portion of the valley of the Connecticut—performed an important surgical operation at Chester, Vt.† He watched it with intense interest. By what mental process or sudden illumination he was inspired he probably could not have told, but he was “penetrated with a desire to know more of a subject so wonderful and novel as the structure of the human body.”‡ The surgeon seemed to him a ministering angel of comfort, and to become a student of medicine was his highest wish.

He requested Dr. Goodhue§ to receive him as a pupil. The doctor inquired as to his previous course of life, and what were his acquirements. He replied, “Until last night I have labored with my hands during my life.” Dr. Goodhue told him kindly that he was not in the habit of receiving students who had not some adequate preparatory education, giving him as the reason that the profession there was in a low state, and that to elevate it in reality and in the public estimation, only young men properly qualified should be encouraged to engage in it. He advised Mr. Smith to study with some good instructor till he was qualified to enter the Freshman Class of Harvard College, and he would then receive him as a pupil.

*Prof. K., Pres. A., and Dr. N. R. Smith in, Preface to “Med. and Surg. Memoirs,” by his father, all say he was now “24 years old,” but as he was born in 1762, and he states in his Essay on Typhus Fever that he began practice at Cornish in 1787, when 25 years old, and allowing one year with Mr. Whiting and three with Dr. G.—4 years—he could have been only 21 years old when he saw the operation.

†Personal communication by Dr. Twitchell, of Keene, to his student, Dr. H. F. Crain, of Springfield, Vt., and by him to me, Hanover, Sept. 17, 1879.

‡Silliman, Yale Book, v. 2.

§Dr. G. removed from Putney to Chester, 1803; to Hadley, Mass., 1816; was President of Trustees of Berkshire Medical College; died in 1829, aged 70, at Keene, N. H., when visiting his daughter, wife of Dr. Amos Twitchell; operated by trepanning forty and more times; strangulated hernia thirty; first who amputated at shoulder joint in New England.—Dr. S. W. Williams, Address Berkshire Med. Inst., Nov. 20, 1829.

Nothing daunted by this postponement of his request and the condition imposed, he at once placed himself under the tuition of Rev. Mr. Whiting, of Rockingham, Vt., till the required condition was fulfilled. He then studied with Dr. Goodhue for three years. The intimacy thus commenced between the faithful and judicious instructor and the zealous and grateful pupil, ripened into a strong and lifelong friendship, Dr. Goodhue dying a few months after Dr. Smith.*

In the life of "Dr. Amos Twitchell, by Dr. H. I. Bowditch," pp. 28-30, is the following account of Dr. Goodhue's operation, &c., given by Dr. Perry, of Boston, to Dr. B., and received by Dr. P. from Dr. Goodhue himself:

Young Smith was a teacher of the adjacent district school, when it was rumored that the important operation of amputation of the thigh was to be performed by Dr. Goodhue. The village was alive upon the subject, and many gathered at the house of the patient, apparently attracted by simple curiosity. When all was prepared, Dr. Goodhue, not having sufficient medical assistance, asked of the assembled company whether any one would hold the limb that was to be taken off. Immediately a strange and rather ungainly backwoodsman-looking youth stepped up boldly and offered his aid.

Dr. Goodhue was struck with the apparently intense interest that he took in the proceedings, and with his unflinching steadiness of nerve. Smith even tied the arteries as Goodhue took them up, and did so without tremor.

After all was finished and most of the villagers had left, the youth still remained, fixed on the spot, with his hands in his pockets, apparently in deep thought. Suddenly he exclaimed, in Yankee phrase and tone, somewhat as follows: "Look ye here, I think I should like to study medicine with you. I am the teacher in your (the?) district school, and after my term has finished, I'll begin."

Dr. Goodhue scanned him well, and answered: "Stop, young man, not so fast; let me see what you know." Finding that he was deficient in his preliminary education, Dr. Good-

*This account from Prof. K.

hue stated his opinion and the youth left. The doctor never thought of the subject until many months afterward, when an unknown individual appeared suddenly at his house, with his pack on his back, apparently prepared to stay. "Well (cried the stranger,) I have come back to study with you, but you must let me earn my board, for I have spent all my money in 'fitting,' as you told me, for college."

An explanation soon took place, and Dr. Goodhue perceiving the qualities possessed by his extraordinary companion, generously offered him a home and medical tuition, while the youth on his part was to assist by performing any manual labor that might arise in the country physician's family.

In 1787,* Dr. Smith, now twenty-five years of age, began practice at Cornish, N. H., though without any diploma.

After about two years, he became so conscious of the deficiency of his education, and of how much there was yet to be learned, that he determined again to become a pupil, and for this purpose went to Cambridge and renewed his studies, by attending the lectures of Dr. John Warren on Anatomy and Surgery, Dr. Aaron Dexter on Chemistry and Materia Medica, and Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse on Theory and Practice, of the Medical Department,† to which he added those of Professor Samuel Webber‡ on Natural Philosophy, in the College; which was probably his first course of lectures. At the close of the term he read an "Inaugural Dissertation" on "the Circulation of the Blood," which was received with high approbation, and at the request of the Faculty was published. At the Harvard Commencement in 1790, he took the degree of M. B., the only one in a class of four,§ and he returned to Cornish with increased knowledge and zeal, where he continued to practice for the next six years.

*"Med. and Surg. Memoirs," p. 45.

†Organized in 1783. These Professors constituted the Faculty, and all received the degree of M. D. in 1786.

‡Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. 1789-1806, and President, 1806-1810.

§One degree of M. B. was conferred in each of the first four years, 1788-91.

An error. See p. 26

The crude condition of the profession in New Hampshire and Vermont, already well known, was now more than ever obvious and painful to him, but as he had secured for himself a considerable eminence, why not selfishly enjoy the benefit? His whole life of self-sacrifice and devotion to his profession showed that he had no such element in his character. There were at this time but three schools of medicine in the United States—two of them in Philadelphia and New York,* and one at Cambridge. To attend either of the first two was entirely out of the question, and never thought of by students of this region, and on account of poverty almost none could go to Cambridge for medical instruction. It was plain, therefore, that the great majority of the students of medicine in New England were unable to avail themselves of the advantages of a scientific education.

It was the universal custom for students to become regularly apprenticed† to some retired "army surgeon," or skillful practitioner, for a term of three or four years, during which the preceptor was entitled to their services in preparing medicines, attending on the sick, and in such operations in minor surgery as they were qualified for; in return they were to receive thorough instruction in all the branches of medicine.

Dr. Smith determined to attempt a remedy for this state of the profession, by furnishing to students the means of obtaining a correct medical education.

He has left no transcript of his thoughts, but in seeking how to accomplish his purpose and to prepare himself for what seemed too great a responsibility to be carried alone, his clear head was ready with a plan, and his energy was equal to its accomplishment—*i. e.*, *he would himself give public instruction in medicine.*

As a stream can never rise higher than the fountain, he saw that he must cultivate himself still more to be fitted for

*The Medical School of Columbia College, discontinued in 1810. Davis, Contrib., p. 23.

†Davis, Contrib., p. 24.

such a duty, and that he must go to the best sources in Europe for that purpose.

Before doing this he made an application to the Trustees of Dartmouth College, which is recorded at their annual meeting in August, 1796, "asking their encouragement and approbation of a plan he had devised to establish a Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in connection with Dartmouth College."

His plan was fully approved by President John Wheelock.*

The scheme, novel and far-reaching, was favorably received and discussed by the Trustees, and a resolution complimentary to the character and energy of Dr. Smith was passed, and hope given of future encouragement; but it was "voted to postpone final action upon the proposition for a year." Was Dr. Smith discouraged or led to suspend his purpose because of the proposed deliberation? Not at all more than when Dr. Goodhue advised him to special study. His resolution was taken, and he went straight forward to accomplish his plan, just the same as if the Trustees had adopted or entirely declined his request. He would have undertaken public instruction alone; as later, George McClellan, M. D., when a young physician in Philadelphia, was lecturing to ninety private students.

At this time the University of Edinburgh was distinguished by a corps of eminent medical professors and writers, and was a great center of medical teaching, taking rank with the universities of Paris, Leyden, and Berlin.

Within about three months from the action of the Trustees as above mentioned, and on his own resources,† "Dr. Smith left a practice which had now become lucrative," and went to Edinburgh "to qualify himself more thoroughly for this employment, which he probably foresaw was to occupy a large portion of his future life;"‡ and thus a *second* time

* Pres. A., p. 10.

† *I. e.*, he borrowed the money of Hon. Sanford Kingsbury, the owner of the now noted Consul Jarvis farm, and repaid it.

‡ Prof. K.

he became a pupil after commencing practice. "In December, 1796, he sailed from Boston in the bark *Hope*, for Glasgow."*

"Early in 1797, he attended the medical lectures at Glasgow, and at Edinburgh under *Monro*,† *Secundus*, on Anatomy and Surgery, and *Black*, on Chemistry,‡ for three months, and proceeded in April to London, where he was diligently engaged in the hospitals and with eminent physicians for four months more. He sent home to the college library, from Edinburgh, medical books of the value of £30 sterling, and brought with him apparatus for anatomy, surgery, and chemistry, which he deemed indispensable for commencing the proposed medical institution, and arrived at Boston in the ship *Apollo* about September 10, 1797."§

A learned American gentleman wrote from London to President Wheelock concerning him: "With pleasure I acknowledge your letter by Dr. Nathan Smith, who has lately come here from Edinburgh. I am thankful to you for introducing him to me. His manners, conversation, and science entitle him to my esteem and your recommendation to my attention." Just after he left London, in consequence of a letter from President Wheelock to Dr. John Coakley Lettson,|| he was elected a Corresponding Member of the Medical Society of London, while in this country he had not yet obtained the degree of M. D. "This diploma was committed

* *Pres. A.*, p. 10. Doubtless on the 18th, as he writes his wife from "on board the bark *Hope*, December 17, 1796. We expect a fair wind in the morning and a pleasant voyage." He writes from "Glasgow, January 24, 1797," probably on his arrival.

† See Appendix A.

‡ His last course.

§ *Pres. A.*, p. 10. The price of passage to Glasgow was \$75; to London, \$170; he chose the former for economy in going out.

|| Born in Little Vandyke, one of the Virgin Islands, W. I., 22 November, 1744. A "Friend," M. D. Leyden, June 29, 1769—Thesis, "Observationes ad vires Therapeuticas,"—in 1773, with a few medical practitioners, organized "The Medical Society of London." In 1788 gave it a house for its meetings. Business from 1786 to 1800 from £5,000 to £12,000 yearly. Presented Harvard College in 1794 6 some 800 specimens of valuable minerals, "the Lettson Cabinet," called "the richest and most extensive collection of minerals in the United States," and received an LL. D.—*Pettigrew's Memoirs of Life, &c.*, 3 vols., London, 1817. Appendix B.

to General Ira Allen, who, in his voyage, was captured by a British man-of-war.”*

The first course of lectures was delivered promptly after his return from Europe, in the fall of 1797,† before his election as Professor.

In August, 1798,‡ the plan proposed by Dr. Smith in 1796 was adopted by the Trustees, and he was appointed a Professor, “whose duty it shall be to deliver public lectures upon Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, and the Theory and Practice of Physic.” A complete schedule was prescribed as to the course of lectures and the conditions of study and graduation, and the degree of A. M. was conferred on Dr. Smith, while that of M. D. only came in 1801. The fable of the emergence of Minerva fully armed from Jupiter’s brain is hardly more remarkable than the complete evolution of this school, and the placing of it on the shoulders of one man.

It is related of our late lamented and accomplished colleague, Dr. E. R. Peaslee, that he lectured in different schools on nearly all the branches of medicine, but I think it can be said truly of no man but Dr. Smith, that he gave instruction for years in all the departments at the same school.

At the commencement, August, 1798, two young men received the degree of M. B. as the first fruits, and one of them, Joseph Adams Gallup, M. D., 1814, became eminent as a practitioner, Professor in Castleton Medical College, and author. His diploma then conferred—a handsome copper-plate—we have as a memorial of this eventful period.

The interest excited by the instruction in this new department is curiously illustrated by an anecdote related to me by a gentleman who was, early in this century, an undergraduate in the college:

President Wheelock came from Dr. Smith’s lecture room

* Pres. A., p. 11.

† Smith’s History Dartmouth College, p. 342. Dr. S. letter to his wife, “Hanover, November 20, 1797.—I am so much engaged here, and the time for beginning my business is so near, that I cannot come to Cornish till I begin my lectures.” Pres. A., p. 12, says “early in 1798.”

‡ Appendix C.

to evening prayers in the old chapel, and gave thanks, in substance, as follows: "Oh, Lord! we thank Thee for the Oxygen gas; we thank Thee for the Hydrogen gas; and for all the gases. We thank Thee for the Cerebrum; we thank Thee for the cerebellum; and for the medulla oblongata."*

After Dr. Smith's official connection with Hanover,† he engaged in a wide practice of medicine and surgery, mostly on horseback, over a rugged country, with poor roads, often nearly impassable, exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather, and every autumn addressed himself with characteristic ardor and faithfulness to the work of instruction, leading his classes skillfully through the several departments of medical science by a much more direct path than he had trodden, and imparting to them his own knowledge, experience, and energy.

His first and only colleague‡ at Hanover was Dr. Cyrus Perkins, (Dart., 1800, M. B., 1802, M. D., 1810,) who was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in 1810, at the request of Dr. Smith, "for relief from teaching Anatomy." He worked successfully with Dr. Smith till 1813, and with new members of the Faculty till 1819, when he removed to New York City, and died at Rossville, Staten Island, in 1849, aged 70.

Dr. Smith was skilfully aided in 1798 and 1799 by his pupil, Lyman Spalding, M. B., Harvard, 1797, who lectured on Chemistry§ and *Materia Medica*, and printed for the use

* Isaac Patterson, Esq., Bath, N. H., Dartmouth, 1812, confirms this as occurring in 1810, in letter, October 13, 1879.

† He removed his family to Hanover, probably in the spring of 1805, as the Trustees in August, 1804, voted him an annual salary of \$200 on this condition.

‡ Prof. K., p. 10, says: "The medical school flourished under his auspices and those of the able professors who were associated with him." Silliman, Yale Book, v. 2, p. 68, Memoir of Dr. N. S., says: "After having single handed taught for several years the various branches of medicine and surgery and the auxiliary sciences, and spent about a year in Great Britain, he returned home, where he was now sustained by an able corps of associates." This is an error. He went abroad before he began to teach, and had no Associate Professors; but one in 1810-13.

§ Chemistry was first taught by Dr. John Maclean, in the College of New Jersey, 1795, and by his pupil, Prof. B. Silliman, in Yale College, April 1, 1804. "At the Commencement of Dartmouth in 1801, Daniel Webster pronounced a discourse on 'The recent discoveries in Chemistry, especially those of Lavoisier,' then recently made public." Life of Prof. A. Alexander, p. 259. Appendix D.

of the classes, "A new Nomenclature* of Chemistry, proposed by Messrs. DeMorveau, Lavoisier, Berthollet, and Fourcroy, with additions and improvements." He published "A Dissertation* on the Bilious Malignant Fever" (Dr. Smith's Typhous) that prevailed at and around Dartmouth College in the summer of 1798, and on graduation at Harvard, an "Inaugural Dissertation on the Production of Animal Heat."* Dr. Spalding afterwards attained distinction as a practitioner in Portsmouth, N. H., and New York City; as President and Professor in the Medical School of the Western District of the State of New York, at Fairfield, in 1812; and as the *Originator*, in 1817, of the movement for a Pharmacopœia of the United States, adopted by a convention of delegates representing the profession, at Washington, in January, 1820; and *Chairman* of the Committee of Publication that issued it to the profession, and he was the acknowledged "*Head*" of the whole scheme,† its inception and completion, as appears from the historical documents.

There is a tradition, current for the last half century, that the lectures were given *at first* in a small two-story house of four rooms, that stood just in front of this building, which is called in Dr. Smith's first deed of a site to the State, "the Medical House,‡ being the house next southerly of my dwelling-house."

In August, 1799, the Trustees "devoted and fitted up room No. 6," in the north-east corner and first story of Dartmouth Hall for Dr. Smith's lectures, and in August, 1803, provided further accommodations in an adjacent room; "which two served for a lecture hall, dissecting room, chemical laboratory, and library," until the present medical building was erected in 1811.

* All seen in the Library of the N. Y. Hospital.

† Prof. Asa Gray, *Am. Journal Science*, Apr., 1879, p. 264, speaks of Dr. Jacob Bigelow as "at the head, or at the laboring oar, of the Committee, which, in 1820, formed the American Pharmacopœia." The latter part of the statement is correct, and he was on the Committee of Publication. Dr. S. died at Portsmouth, N. H., Oct. 31, 1821, Æ. 46 years. Dr. B. died at Boston, January 10, 1879, at 92 years.

‡ Removed years ago to the south-west corner of the village, and is now the Westgate house.

The school prospered under these most inadequate conditions, but it was obvious that private funds could no longer provide for what was in its scope and effects a *public* institution.

In 1803, on the application of Dr. Smith for aid, the Legislature of New Hampshire voted an appropriation of \$600 for apparatus, and on his solicitation the State gave a further sum of \$3,450 to erect a building, of brick or stone, for a Medical School, on condition that "he would give a site for it and assign to the State his Anatomical Museum and Chemical Apparatus."

His house, which stood north and by the *well* at the entrance to Prof. Hardy's place, was burned in 1855. He owned a small farm of about forty acres, extending from Prof. Lord's house on the south to some distance above Prof. Hardy's house, with the front on the opposite side of the street, and the hill on the east, then covered with a beautiful grove of ancient oaks and maples, which were mostly cut off by a subsequent owner after 1840, and twenty or more acres of meadow lying east of the hill and on the road east from the college.

He gave for the site, December 31, 1810, a half acre, just east of this building, higher on the hill. This was found inconvenient of access, and June 1, 1811, he conveyed to the State of New Hampshire forty-five square rods, the site we now occupy,* and this building of brick was erected, seventy-five feet by thirty-two, having two† commodious lecture rooms in the two-story center, and two three-story wings for library, chemical laboratory, museums, &c., &c.

It is understood the appropriation made by the State was insufficient, and Dr. Smith raised more money to complete

*He reserved "a road or passway from the road (or highway) to these lots, twenty feet wide, from the lines of the lot of H. Hutchinson," 1814, (now occupied by Prof. Lord,) and passing between and including the two large maple trees on the edge of the hill. V. deed of N. S. to Yale College, and of Yale College to Blaisdell and Hubbard, 28 March, 1832.

†The upper room now contains the new and valuable Stoughton Museum of Pathology.

the work, and thus was provided a comfortable "habitation," in which became permanently established "the New Hampshire Medical Institution."

From whatever point we view it, this enterprise was a bold one, quite akin to that of Wheelock in founding the college, and a natural sequence of it. Every new country has a heroic period, in which it is especially true that "every man is the artificer of his own fortune." It was unprecedented for a young physician, without a liberal education and with very small resources, to attempt to found alone a professional school, when a similar one connected with the first college of New England, (Harvard,) founded in 1640, was with difficulty sustained under the instruction of three eminent and learned men.* We can see from this recital how completely Dr. Smith triumphed over difficulties which no other man would have dared to encounter, and how decidedly his sagacity and good judgment were confirmed as to the wants of the profession, and the means of meeting the dearth of medical science by the supply of educated physicians. The prosperity of the school was secured, and in 1814 its classes had increased in numbers to seventy-seven.

The school at Cambridge gave its first degree in 1788, and up to 1798 there were twenty graduates. Comparing the two schools from 1798 to 1828, both inclusive, Harvard graduated two hundred and thirty students of medicine, and Dartmouth three hundred and forty; and to this date, one thousand three hundred and fifty-five.

If this were the climax of Dr. Smith's life and he had rested from his labors, and this school was his only monument, we might justly inscribe upon it, "*Gaudet tentamine virtus.*"† It is impossible that a man capable of accomplishing these results should not have acquired an eminent fame beyond the immediate scene of his labors. The graduates of

* Pres. A., p. 12, says: "For some years after 1798 there were but few students of medicine attendant on the lectures, as I may safely assert from being a hearer of them myself."

† The Dartmouth motto.

this school, "young, enterprising and intelligent physicians, had settled in the neighboring parts of New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as in more distant places of New England.* They all looked up to him as their friend and professional father, and wished him as their counsellor. This, together with his deservedly high and continually increasing reputation as a kind, attentive, and skillful physician and surgeon, drew upon him a vast amount of business. The good which he accomplished by affording advice and counsel, and imparting a portion of his own vigor and energy to the younger members of his profession, as well as the more direct benefit which he gave the sick, can scarcely be estimated."

Dr. Smith seemed now well established at Hanover, where he was surrounded by friends, and the school, "the child of his hope which he had raised from the cradle,"† was in a vigorous and thriving condition; but the country was poor, remuneration for practice and instruction not large, and somewhat precarious, with his unbounded professional generosity his income was small, while discouragements and difficulties of a local character were not wanting.

Just then, 1812, Yale College determined to establish a Medical Department, and wished a man of ripe professional experience and tried success for the enterprise. There was no hesitation in the selection. Dr. Smith was called to take the foremost place and responsibility. He accepted the appointment of Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and of Surgery, commenced his lectures in New Haven, in 1813, when fifty-one years old, which he continued annually through his life. "In the year 1814,‡ by the personal exertions of Dr. Nathan Smith, funds to the amount of \$20,000 were obtained by a grant from the Legislature of the State of Connecticut. With these a new stone building was

* Prof. K., et seq.

† Pres. A., p. 14.

‡ Prof. K., Introductory Lecture, 1838, p. 8. The Sheffield S. S. Building, at the head of College street (erected by Hon. James Hillhouse, originally for a tavern,) and land adjacent on the east and north, where was Prof. Eli Ives's Botanical Garden.

purchased, a Library was begun, and the foundation of an Anatomical Museum was laid."* He was now far more eligibly situated for his practice, which was very large in the city and vicinity. "He was called in time into every county and almost every town in the State. The sick and unfortunate from every part of the country collected to receive the benefit of his skill, and his life was one continuous scene of active, laborious, and useful exertion." Under the auspices of Dr. Smith and his eminent associates, Professors Silliman, Ives, and Knight,† the school prospered, and the classes advanced to ninety members during his life.

Dr. Smith's resignation at Dartmouth was not accepted till 1814. He was re-elected in 1816, but declined the election, gave a final course of lectures in 1816,‡ and removed his family to New Haven in the spring of 1817. During all this time he practiced extensively in all this region in the summer, certainly as late as 1821.

In 1820, the new State of Maine established a Medical School, with an annual appropriation of \$1,000 a year, which was opened at Bowdoin College in the spring of 1821. Dr. Smith was called to organize this school also, *the third*, and for five§ years, from 1821 to 1825, inclusive, he carried as usual the chief burden, and gave all the lectures, except in Chemistry and on Anatomy, from which he was relieved after two years. He gave, also, four|| courses of lectures at the University of Vermont, as "Lecturer on Medicine and Surgery," 1822-1825, making some forty-two general courses with which he was connected in the thirty-two years from 1797 to 1828, both inclusive, and giving instruction in dif-

* Prof. Kingsley, *Christian Spectator*, v. 1, p. 612, says: "At his death he gave his Library to the Medical School."

† "Only Dr. S. held a diploma from any regularly organized (Medical) Institution." *Yale Book*, v. 2, p. 65.

‡ Attended by sixty-six medical and forty-four college students. *V. Sheet Catalogue*, 1816.

§ *Pres. A.*, p. 16. *Prof. K.*, p. 12, says, "two."

|| *Triennial Catalogue*, University of Vermont, from J. E. Goodrich, Librarian, where his son, N. R. Smith, M. D., was Professor of Anatomy and Physic.

ferent departments in about one hundred and thirty-eight* special courses. During this time Dr. Smith saw numerous other schools established in various parts of the country, attended by some 2,000 students.† “To him, more than to any other man, it is believed, may be ascribed this rapid increase in the advantages for medical education in America. Who can estimate the value of the results, which may be traced to the blessing of God, on the enterprise of one man.”

An eminent Professor of Yale College wrote of him: “His lectures, which were commonly, if not always extemporaneous, were probably at no period more fraught with various knowledge and with the results of recent observation and reading, than from the time he removed to New Haven till his death.”‡

It is plain that no man can carry such a burden of duty and responsibility indefinitely. The end comes far too early, and the world reluctantly surrenders such an invaluable treasure. We are indebted to Professor Knight for the following account of his last illness:§

“In July, 1828, Dr. Smith had a severe but short illness, which left him in a debilitated state. Weakness and occasional attacks of illness continued through the summer and autumn. Though enfeebled in body, his mind retained its usual vigor and activity, and unwilling to yield to what he probably considered a trivial complaint, he continued, with the exception of a few days, his laborious employments. He was now in the midst of his annual course of lectures, when, toward the close of December, he was attacked with a severe vertiginous affection, which was alleviated by remedies. On January 13th, he perceived a slight numbness of his left hand and a trifling indistinctness in his articulation. These

* A near estimate. Prof. Blumenbach, of Gottingen, in fifty years gave one hundred courses of lectures.

† Pres. A., p. 16.

‡ Prof. J. L. Kingsley, *Christian Spectator*, v. 1, p. 644. Rev. of Dwight's *Travels in North Germany, 1825-6*, in defense of American Professors.

§ Prof. K., p. 13.

symptoms gradually increased until the morning of the 26th, (Jan., 1829,) when the powers of life became exhausted, and at six o'clock, in the sixty-seventh year of his age, he slept the sleep of death."*

During his illness he was tenderly watched by his colleagues and their families day and night. A favorite and admiring pupil, Dr. George C. Shattuck, (a graduate of Dartmouth, 1803, M. B., 1806, and M. D., 1812,) came on from Boston to see him, and comforted his last hours by promising to assume the education of his youngest son—then in his second year at Yale—which promise he faithfully fulfilled. Dr. Reuben D. Mussey, his pupil and successor here, (Dartmouth, 1803, M. B., 1806, and M. D., 1812,) was also by his bedside with kind ministrations.

In regard to the religious character of Dr. Smith, "there is reason to believe his last days were his best days." He had never made a profession of his faith, though he had been an attendant upon the public worship of God, and always "regarded the institutions and the ministers of religion with the highest reverence."

"A friend held a long and deeply interesting conversation with him some months before his death, in which he expressed his full conviction of the truth of the Christian religion."† On its consolations he seemed to rely in the closing scenes of his life, "requesting the counsel and prayers of several ministers of the gospel."

"When one of his friends asked him if in communicating the sad fact to one of his sons he might say that 'he died in the faith and hopes of the gospel?' he professed that such was the fact, and wished his friend thus to write."‡

The college and the city of New Haven mourned at his death, and a wide-spread sense of bereavement was felt throughout all classes; for the rich and the poor were equally his friends and debtors. Professor Silliman wrote: "He

*Dr. Thomas Hubbard, Pomfret, Conn., succeeded him; d., 1838.

†Christian Spectator, v. 1, p. 208, 1829.

‡Pres. A., p. 27.

was the favorite of a wider circle of personal acquaintances and friends than any other man probably ever enjoyed in New England.”*

I might now, young gentlemen, leave this brief sketch to your own reflections, believing you can draw from this example only profitable inferences and principles to form your habits of study and professional life; but it is proper and just to add some special delineations of his character, recorded by those who knew him.†

“Dr. Smith possessed a keen, discriminating inquisitiveness into everything submitted to his inspection—a principle of rational inquiry for information to be applied to some valuable purpose.”

“Closely related to this, and perhaps a consequence, his memory was remarkable in regard to all the diseases he had treated and the operations he had performed, so that he had always at command all the results of his experience to confirm and illustrate his opinions.” In all this fullness his mind was not inclined to speculation, but rather by “a faculty, familiarly called plain common sense,” he could apply his knowledge “to all subjects connected with his profession.”

Dr. Smith had “an undaunted moral courage.” The physician or surgeon is often brought into straits by the peculiarity or severity of the disease, or the risks from using “a powerful remedy or performing a painful and hazardous operation,” as well as embarrassed by the anxiety of friends and various social influences. “Having satisfied himself what course was best for his patient, he honestly advised and fearlessly pursued it, regardless of the censure which might follow should it prove unsuccessful.”

“With him there was no hesitation, no wavering between duty and expediency, between the welfare of his patient and his own reputation. This conduct in one who valued reputation so highly, is the strongest proof of the existence of that

* American Journal Science and Arts, v. 16, p. 213.

† Prof. K., et. seq.

courage of the mind so much more noble and so much more rarely found than mere physical valor." "He was especially kind, assiduous, and delicate in the treatment of his patients," exhibiting everywhere encouraging words, and "the cheerful countenance that doeth good like a medicine alleviating the distress as well of the body as of the mind." "If patients were dangerously sick he watched at their bedside day and night, performing the offices of a kind friend as well as those of a skillful physician."

"As an instructor the reputation of Dr. Smith was high from the first. The fact that he gave instruction upon all the branches of medical and surgical science, which was acceptable to classes of intelligent young men, many of whom have become eminent in their profession, proves not only versatility of talent but variety and extent of information, with a happy method of communicating it. This was simple, natural, and unaffected. He sought no aid from an artificial style, but merely poured forth, in the plain language of enlightened conversation, the treasures of his wisdom and experience." He said little of theories, but insisted on facts and principles illustrated by cases in his own practice, "related always in an impressive and often playful manner, to gain the attention and fix the truth in the mind."

"He often urged upon his pupils correct moral deportment, industrious habits, independent judgment of cases, love of the profession, activity in the practice of it, and zeal in the promotion of its best interests. His suavity of manner and kind interest in the welfare of his pupils gained their affection and friendship."

"The various relations of life were sustained by Dr. Smith in an exemplary manner. As a citizen, the same spirit which prompted him to enlist in the service of his country when engaged in war, led him to support, by his influence, her institutions in time of peace. As a lover of good order, he rejoiced in the enactment and the execution of wholesome laws and regulations; and as a friend of morality, he discountenanced vice in every form. The purity of his life, it

is believed, arose not so much from the restraints of society, as from a purity of mind which remained unsullied."

"In his relations to his fellow men there are particular traits of his character which ought not to pass unnoticed. He possessed strong social feelings and habits. Accustomed from early life to the society of men in every station, he entered readily into unreserved intercourse with all. In companies of every kind, learned or unlearned, polished or otherwise, his conversation, his fund of anecdote and the acuteness of his remarks upon all subjects, whether relating to the common affairs of life or the more important concerns of morals or literature, rendered him a welcome guest. His manners, which were free, yet unassuming and unshackled by the forms of ceremonial observances, were such as to impose no inconvenient restraints upon others or upon himself. No one delighted more in social intercourse with his friends, and in a free interchange of feelings and opinions with them. This was one of the pleasures of his life, and endeared him to those with whom he associated."

"Dr. Smith was eminently a benevolent man. He regarded man as a brother, and when in distress, as a brother he afforded him relief. No one, it is presumed, ever heard him say to the destitute, 'Be ye warmed and be ye clothed,' without at the same time furnishing the means of relieving their necessities."

"Dr. Smith was more extensively known in New England than any other medical man, or indeed, than any man of any profession. The assertion that he has done more for the improvement of Physic and Surgery in New England than any other man will by no one be deemed invidious, and his influence over medical literature, through his large acquaintance with medical men, by his advice and example, as well as more directly through the medium of the various medical schools which were favored with his instructions, *was equally extensive.*"

Well may his son in honest pride say: "He was instrumental in founding colleges of medicine which now flourish

(even to-day, 1879, and fifty years after his decease) as his noblest monuments in several States of New England."

"Though he labored sufficiently for earning three fortunes, he died leaving none."*

The publications of Dr. Smith are not numerous. He began to write as soon as he commenced practice. The earliest papers yet discovered are a† "Dissertation on the causes and effects of spasms in Fevers," in the Massachusetts Magazine, vol. 3, 1791, January, p. 33, February, p. 81, and another, "Observations on the position of patients in the operation for Lithotomy, with a case of a man 72 years old," in the "Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, vol. 6, p. 227, 1805," in a letter to Dr. Lettsom. One of the most important and best known is a "Practical Essay on Typhus (Typhoid) Fever, 8vo, 1824, New York," which our late lamented Professor A. B. Crosby said "was the first comprehensive description of Typhoid Fever written, and covered in a wonderfully exhaustive way not only the clinical history and pathology of this interesting disease, and in which the gist and germ of the magnificent discoveries of Louis in the Hospitals of Paris years after are anticipated."‡ This appeared again in the "Medical and Surgical Memoirs," where the student will find much of what he did, which is original in medicine and surgery.

He edited, with copious notes and additions, "A treatise on Febrile Diseases, by A. P. Wilson Philips, M. D., 2d Am. from 3d London ed., Hartford, 1816, 2 vols." He contributed valuable papers to the Philadelphia Monthly Journal, some of which were reprinted in the French Medi-

* Preface to "Medical and Surgical Memoirs by Nathan Smith, M. D., Professor Theory and Practice Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics, Yale College," edited by his son, N. R. Smith, M. D., Baltimore, 1831.

† See Callisen's Medicin. Schriftsteller Lexicon Copenhagen, 1833, pp. 534-537; and for abstract of last, Medical and Physical, Jour. v. 15, 1806, —London.

‡ Smith's History Dartmouth College, pp. 346-7, quoted. Dr. S. in a letter to his wife, dated Brunswick, Me., April 4, 1823, says: "I am writing a book on Typhus Fever; have written it all out, and when copied it will be ready for the press. I shall write another on Surgery, which I hope to have nearly completed before I leave this place."

"Inaugural Dissertation"

cal Journals.* He ranks as second in time among Ovariologists, having performed an *original* operation at Norwich, Vt., July 5, 1821, with no knowledge of McDowell's operations.† Out of thirty cases of Lithotomy, only three were fatal. He lost no patient of hemorrhage, consequent upon an operation, and he first in America performed Staphyloraphy. His surgical clinic in the first course at Bowdoin, included twenty operations for cataract, one removal of an eye, one amputation of a leg, with various others.‡

In reference to necrosis, amputation of the thigh, reduction of dislocation of the hip, and treatment of fractures, his principles and devices were new and valuable. "To him is justly due the credit of having introduced and diffused over a large part of New England, the most correct practice of all the celebrated surgeons of the last and the present century, which is no mean praise."§

A few of Dr. Smith's pupils and friends still survive, and have favored me with some particulars of his life. Dr. Abraham T. Lowe, of Boston, a graduate in 1816 at this school, who rode with Dr. Smith at that time five months, has sent me some recollections of his pupilage. His fellow-student, Nehemiah Cutter, M. D., Yale, 1817, was afterwards prominent in the treatment of Nervous Diseases, at Pepperell, Massachusetts.

He says: "We generally rode on horseback, Dr. Smith in the middle. Almost all of our conversation took the form of clinical lectures on the surgical and medical cases which we visited in our sometimes long circuit of days, and it was always interesting and instructive. At this time he was preparing his edition of 'Wilson on Fevers,' afterward published at Hartford. When we were kept from home for a night, Dr. Smith would retire to his room and write a chapter or a

* Pres. A., p. 31.

† Dr. McDowell was studying in Edinburgh, 1793-4.

‡ Pres. A., p. 15.

§ Prof. K., p. 28.

few paragraphs for the work, much of which, I think, was written in this way.

“He was once called in, when riding through Queechy, Vt., to see a severe case of secondary dysentery, the patient in great distress, and the room full of despairing friends. The attending physicians had prescribed sedatives, as they thought, with the utmost liberality, but without benefit. Dr. Smith asked but one or two questions, and administered a compound opiate, in a dose which led his pupils to fear the patient would be relieved from all pain and enter the spirit land within the coming hour. He waited for the effect of the medicine, called the attention of the anxious friends to a remarkable yoke of oxen he espied through the window, and by inquiries and remarks that led to much conversation, he completely diverted their minds. Soon a whisper was heard, ‘She’s sleeping;’ and again, ‘Doctor, do you think she will get well?’ and his reply, ‘Get well? yes, of course she will.’ At the end of an hour he left the patient sleeping quietly and breathing freely, all anxiety removed, and she fully recovered.

“Before the discovery of Anæsthesia, surgeons suffered in their sensibilities as well as their patients. With other pupils I accompanied the doctor to a distant town to see a capital operation. It was a case to excite commiseration. The patient was old enough to understand the purpose in hand, but not sufficiently mature to perceive its necessity. It was a chilly morning, as we sat by the fire, and the doctor looked at the patient at the farther end of the room. The lad was emaciated and trembling. Dr. Smith was visibly affected, his eyes dropped tears and his hand trembled as he whispered to me, ‘I shall not do what they expect. It is a cruel business, and I will perform a less severe operation, in the hope it may have the same effect.’ On examination it became apparent that the severer operation (amputation of the thigh) could not be avoided. Before we returned to the room, he said to the attending physician, ‘Hall, you know all about this boy’s sufferings; at the moment we begin, bend over and

across the bed to hide us from his sight, and do your best to comfort him,' the tears still falling from his eyes. At once he became calm, the tremor left him, and in less time than while I write this period, the operation was completed, and the patient recovered."

Dr. Lowe adds: "Dr. Smith was a great and good man. He never seemed to toil for professional fame, but to do good to his fellow men, and in view of his virtues as a citizen, and his justly prominent skill as a physician, one of his surviving pupils, of more than four-score years, (eighty-four,) says: 'Honored be the name of Nathan Smith, the founder, father, and for many years the sustainer of the Medical Department of Dartmouth College; ever recognized by all his friends and acquaintances as an honest man and most useful citizen.'"

The venerable Professor A. S. Packard, of Bowdoin College, more than fifty years in office, writes me: "I was a tutor in our college, and heard Dr. Smith's opening lecture in 1821, and other lectures in subsequent years, and his lodgings were in the same house where I boarded. It is one of my most pleasant reminiscences, and I have not ceased to recall the noble traits of that eminent man with great satisfaction. I never saw him out of humor but once while he was with us, and then he was really indignant. He had returned from visiting a patient in an adjacent town, who had been neglected by his physician, a young man, and who had graduated from our Medical School. The Doctor, after a ten-miles ride, had not cooled off from this instance of a dishonor to the profession."

Ex-president Woolsey, of Yale College, relates that "When Dr. Smith came to lecture at Yale, in 1813, he came directly to my father's house, and remained there all winter. He was the most delightful, unselfish, and kind-hearted man I ever knew, and we children all loved him. He was confined to the house for a month by an injury to his leg, and it was a great treat for us to be in his room, and difficult to keep us out."

He mentioned an anecdote of his humor: "He was riding through Guilford, a few miles east of New Haven, when a woman came out of a house and asked if he knew Dr. Smith, and if he were in New Haven, and explained there was a case there requiring his attention. He inquired the particulars, and said, 'I know Dr. Smith very well, he is not in New Haven, but I can attend to this case just as well as he can.' He did so, performed the operation, and rode away without telling who he was."

It has always been a gratification to myself to have known somewhat of this eminent man. His person, features, and dress are perfectly fresh in my recollection as you find them faithfully delineated in his picture, in the Stoughton Museum, and presented by Dr. Peaslee.* I can testify, personally, when a member of Yale College in the spring of 1828, to his tact and good sense, when called to the first case of an epidemic of varioloid† and small pox that invaded the college, by which he prevented a panic and a general dispersion of the students. He gave the students of the college in 1826 and 1828 an occasional lecture on Hygiene, in a style attractive and convincing.

An anecdote of his charity was then current. He was called to a neighboring town to amputate a leg, shattered by some explosion on an occasion like the 4th of July. The operation being finished, his charge was asked for. He replied: "Fifty dollars." The sympathizing crowd contributed the amount, which he counted and gave to the patient, and rode home.

Dr. Amos Twichell,‡ late of Keene, N. H., who stood at the head of the profession as a physician and surgeon, was

* Copied by U. D. Tenney, from the original in the Yale Medical College, by S. F. B. Morse; presented by the class of 1824-5.

† There were eleven cases of varioloid and one fatal case of confluent small pox.

‡ Born Dublin, N. H., April 4, 1781; entered Dartmouth, 1798; A. B., 1802; M. B., 1805; died of paralysis, Keene, May 26, 1850; aged sixty-nine years; married, June, 1815, Elizabeth, daughter Dr. Josiah Goodhue. He was offered a Professorship at Dartmouth, in 1819; Castleton, Vt., 1824; Bowdoin, 1826; University Vermont, 1827; and declined them all.

a pupil of Dr. Smith. He began practice in 1805 in Norwich, Vt., and experienced the ordinary discouragements of a young doctor.

Dr. H. I. Bowditch, of Boston, his biographer, relates the following anecdote, which "shows in a clear light the sagacious good sense of the preceptor, and his willingness to forget himself for the sake of his beloved pupil."

Being naturally inclined to depression of mind at one time, Dr. B. says: "Darkness had been resting over the young physician for many days." He had made up his mind "that it was impossible to succeed." He had few patients, and still fewer hopes of any. At length, he confined himself to his chamber, and refused to see even those who called for his services. While urged by friends in the family to send for Dr. Smith or some other doctor, he declined, saying, "he needed no doctor." Finally, the alarmed family sent over to Hanover for Dr. Smith, informing him of the circumstances, and of Dr. T.'s refusal to see him or any doctor.

The next day, early, Dr. Smith entered his room, and Dr. T. said, "What brought you here, sir?" He replied: "I was making my circuit and it brought me near you, and as I wanted you to make for me some of that chemical preparation (naming it) that you used to prepare when a student, I thought I would ask you to go home with me and make a little, and at the same time teach my students the art." T. said, "I can't go." S.: "I cannot listen to any refusal; you *must* go; besides, I mean to show you a severe gun-shot wound that I met with a few days since." T.: "I repeat, sir, I cannot go." But remembering his former kindness, "I consented, and prepared for the journey. We were soon in the carriage, and my companion, Dr. S., was in his liveliest humor. He told me of all he was doing, of his cases, the news of the neighborhood, &c., &c. Arrived at Hanover, I was kept hard at work all day in the Laboratory and teaching the students until dark. Smith then came home and thanked me very much for what I had done, and said, 'It

is too late to think of returning home now ; you will pass the night here.' I protested in vain. ' Besides, there is that patient I told you about ; we must get up early to-morrow morning and go and see him.'

“Unwillingly I yielded, and the next day at early dawn we were in the chaise. I observed the doctor had his gun with him, but presumed that his love of hunting, gained in his youth, was the cause of it. We visited two or three patients, and drove farther and farther from home. About dinner time we stopped at a country inn and took dinner, and it was proposed to the landlord that he should put up some turk^{les} for us to shoot at. The afternoon passed away rather more pleasantly ; the whole of it was spent in sporting, and my mind was taken from the fixed and morbid contemplation of my own thoughts. Evening came, and we were still far from home, and the result was another night's sojourn at Dr. Smith's, and a prospect of another ride in the morning.

“The next day, as we were driving over hill and dale, it suddenly flashed upon me that Smith, my honored master, had been thus devoting two whole days to cure me of a mere mental hallucination. I felt thoroughly ashamed of myself at the idea. The charm was broken ; I knew he had been reading me all the while, and I had been behaving like a fool. We were rapidly driving down hill, and Smith was talking as usual, when I burst out into a loud laugh. He turned to me with his keen, kind glance and said, 'Well, what is the matter *now*?' I replied, 'What a fool you must have thought me ; I feel heartily ashamed of myself.' He shrewdly replied, 'I rather think you will be able to go home to-night!' Ever after, if I looked sad, Smith would bring me up to a right frame of mind by asking whether 'it would not be well to go to *Hanover to make chemicals*?'”

I will add to these testimonials one from Edward E. Phelps, (M. D., Yale, 1825,) of Windsor, Vt., who was for two years a pupil of Dr. Smith, and for many years an honored Professor in this school, and whose opinions we are accustomed to receive with great respect :

"Of Dr. Nathan Smith what shall I say? He was a kind-hearted man, a most sagacious physician, and every inch a philosopher. I have of late years endeavored to make up my mind to what to attribute his greatness, and so far as I can settle this question, I think his great talent lay in two things principally.

"First, his remarkably clear idea of vital action. He was not versed in the complicated knowledge of modern physiology, but he had just such views of the laws of vital action as John Hunter, Bichat, and old Haller—a far-reaching insight of life and all its various phenomena—which is a far better discerner of morbid action than even the refined physiology of the present day, unless assisted by clear views of life as a whole or an unit.

"Second, the other factor was his astonishing, acute perception of the most trifling deviation from normal action in the human system, and a remarkably just estimate of its value. This explains the wonderful sagacity he possessed in diagnosis and prognosis.

"His reading of cases at the bedside, with the very few and brief interrogatories, was most remarkable for its accuracy. To the same keenness of perception was due his accurate knowledge of the remedies he used and their peculiar adaptation to the case before him.

"Of his surgical talent, I must say a word of the injustice done him in relation to some of the great improvements of modern surgery. The reduction of dislocations by the manœuvre, as it is now called, was practiced by him as early as 1818, almost before those who claim the discovery were born; and ovariectomy was practiced successfully by him almost simultaneously for the first time with Dr. McDowell, and at a period when intelligence between remote parts of the country was almost impossible.

"Smith's first operation was not an accidental one, a haphazard attempt to get an ugly case out of the way, but the result of a calm, deliberate study of the laws of vital action,

just like all the rest of his surgery. There was as much of John Hunter in it as in any action of John Hunter's life.

“With the deep-rooted modesty of true greatness he did almost nothing to spread abroad his doings, but was contented, like the sower of good seed, to trust to Providence for its germination and its fructifying results. His mental structure is best understood if we consider it as an harmonious combination of some of the best intellectual qualities of those great men whom he so highly esteemed, and whose works he so enthusiastically studied, such as Baron Haller, John Hunter, Xavier Bichat, and Sir William Jones, the eminent Asiatic scholar. I have thus briefly given a little tribute to the memory of one who certainly has not had his superior in medicine. It may have been said of him that he was not a scientific man. I deny it. He was all science. As well assert that John Hunter was not a scientific man. He was filled with science as by a species of inspiration.”*

* Appendix E.

APPENDIX A.

The family of Monro was so long connected with the University of Edinburgh, and Monro, Secundus, and Dr. Black having been Dr. Smith's instructors, I give the following notes concerning them. Slight variations exist, with authorities :

John Monro settled in Edinburgh in 1700 as a Surgeon, after serving as Surgeon under King William, in Flanders.

His son, Alexander Monro, Primus, born in London, 19 September, 1697; 1717, Anatomy with Cheselden in London, and made anatomical preparations for his father; 1718, Hospitals in Paris, and lectures of Chomel, Botany and Chemistry, et al.; 1718, autumn, Leyden, w. Boerhaave, Chemistry, Theory and Practice, and Clinical Lectures; 1722, succeeded Professors Drummond and McGill in Anatomical College Physicians and Surgeons; 1725, Professor Anatomy Edinburgh University for forty years, and died July 10, 1767, aged seventy; and succeeded by his son.

Alexander Monro, Secundus, (*also Elder*.) born Edinburgh, 20 May, 1733; 1751, began medicine with father, assisted in dissecting room, studied under Professors Rutherford, Sinclair and Alston; 1753, aided father in his lectures; 1755, graduated M. D., Professor Anatomy and Surgery, "on request of his father," after study at London, Paris, Berlin and Leyden; 1758, lectured as colleague with father, and for forty years lectured without aid (son began to assist 1798 or 1800,) continued Surgery to 1807; Introductory lecture to course 1808-9, when seventy-six years old; a Professor fifty-four years; died 1818, aged eighty-five and succeeded by his son.

Alexander Monro, Tertius, (*also Junior*.) born Edinburgh, November 5, 1773; 1798, colleague Professor with father; 1799, M. D.; 1803, began class of practical Anatomy; 1808, succeeded father in Chair of Anatomy; retired from chair 1847 as Emeritus Professor, "and thus ended the connection of the College of Edinburgh and the family of Monro, which lasted for more than a century and a quarter;" died March 10, 1859.

"Monro, Primus, lectured to 3,850 students, whose expenses in Edinburgh at £50 each must have amounted to £192,500; Monro, Secundus, to 14,000 students, £700,000, or the sum of £892,000, or near three and a half millions of dollars, which these two distinguished individuals added to the improvement of Edinburgh and its inhabitants."—*Edinburgh Encyclopædia*, American edition, 1832.

Dr. Joseph Black, born Bordeaux, France, 1728; 1756, Professor of Anatomy and Lecturer on Chemistry, University of Glasgow, on taking M. D., and Thesis on "Cause of difference between limestone and quicklime, or mild and caustic alkalies," in place of Dr. Cullen, transferred to University of Edinburgh; 1766, succeeded Dr. Cullen at Edinburgh; Professor at Glasgow and Edinburgh nearly forty-three years; died November 26, 1799, aged seventy-one years. His successor was

Professor Thomas C. Hope, born Edinburgh, July 21, 1766, (son of Dr. John Hope Professor Botany, University Edinburgh;) 1787, Professor Chemistry, Glasgow; 1793, assistant to Dr. Black; 1799, succeeded Dr. Black as Professor Chemistry, University Edinburgh, to end of session of 1843, forty-four years; and at Glasgow and Edinburgh, fifty-six years; died June 13, 1844, aged seventy-eight years; annual income from lectures reported as \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Professor B. Silliman's instructor in 1805.

APPENDIX B.

This honor led in after years to the following letter :

LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY,
BOW COURT, FLEET STREET,
LONDON, November 6, 1823.

Sir: I have the honor, by the direction of the Council of the "*Medical Society of London*," to communicate to you that it is the intention of the Society to resume the publication of their transactions, and, anxious to avail themselves of the advantages of your talents and information, they beg that you will, as a corresponding member of the Society, favor them with any communications you may deem of sufficient interest upon subjects of Medicine or Surgery generally; or with the detail of any curious or important cases which may have come under your consideration. By such a mode of correspondence the Society trust that a degree of good-fellowship and esteem may be maintained between the learned of the two nations, which cannot fail to add to the advantage of each.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your very obed't servant,

ROBLEY DUNGLISON.

*Secretary for foreign correspondence to the Medical Society,
and one of the Editors of the London Medical Repository.*

To Dr. NATHAN SMITH.

P. S. I should feel highly honored by being proposed a member of any of your Scientific Societies in America.

Dr. D. was now about twenty-six years old. Little did he anticipate that within another year, he would make a winter voyage and arrive at Norfolk, Va., in February, 1825, on his way to the Professorship in the University of Virginia, thence to another in Baltimore, and next in Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and to an eminent professional position and membership of learned societies in America.

APPENDIX C.

Some of the events of this period are worthy of record here. The following is a list of the Trustees in 1798:

John Wheelock, LL. D., President 1779-1815. Dartmouth, 1771.

Prof. Bezabael Woodward, Treasurer, Yale, 1764.

Rev. Eden Burroughs, Yale, 1763.

Elisha Payne, Esq., Dartmouth, 1784.

Rev. David McClure, D. D., Biographer Pres. E. Wheelock, Yale, 1769.

Prof. John Smith Dartmouth, 1773.

Hon. Peter Olcott, Judge Sup. Ct. and Lt. Gov. Vt. Hon. Dart., 1796.

Rev. Israel Evans, Founder Evans Professorship, Col. N. J., 1772.

Jonathan Freeman, Esq., Treas. M. C.: Hon. Dartmouth, 1795.

Hon. Nathaniel Niles, M. C., Col. N. J., 1766.

Gov. John T. Gilman, ex-offi., Hon. Dartmouth, 1796.

There are the Alumni of Yale, Princeton, and Dartmouth—Clergymen, Governors, Members of Congress, and civilians—representing the intelligence of the country and the animating spirit of these colleges.

The proposition of Dr. Smith, in 1796, to establish a new Department, without endowment—asking simply for favor and countenance, not for support—was one where deliberation was most certainly wise and prudent.

The committee, Rev. Eden Burroughs and Hon. N. Niles, in their report of acceptance and organization, expressed the views of the Trustees.

The idea of growth and expansion lies at the foundation of this college. It was then only "*Vox clamantis in deserto*,"* "Under the government and protection of the general laws of the land these institutions—go on with the progress of society, accommodating themselves easily, without sudden change or violence, to the alterations which take place in its conditions, and in the knowledge, the habits, and pursuits of men—a better constitution for a college, or one more adapted to the condition of things under the present government, in all material respects, could not now be framed."†

This Royal Colonial charter authorized the Trustees to "Give and grant any such degree or degrees, to any of the students of the college, or any others by them thought worthy thereof, granted in; either of the universities or any other college in our realm of Great Britain, and that they sign and seal diplomas or certificates of such graduations, to be kept by the graduates as perpetual memorials and testimonies thereof."‡ So also, "To nominate and appoint all other officers and ministers for the service of said college,"§ on the same broad basis of a university scheme as above, connected with a provision "to establish such ordinances, orders, and laws as may tend to the good and wholesome government of the said college and all the students, and the several officers and ministers thereof, and to the public benefit of the same," "And not excluding any person of any *religious denomination* whatsoever from free and equal liberty and advantage of education, or from any of the liberties and privileges or immunities of the said college on account of his or their speculative sentiments in religion, and of his or their being of a *religious profession* different from the said *Trustees* of the said Dartmouth College."||

"A charter of more liberal sentiments, of wiser provisions, drawn with more care or in a better spirit, could not be expected at any time or from any source."

Thus declared Mr. Webster, when maintaining, on the broadest ground of English and American jurisprudence, the franchises of the college, its rights and that of all its benefactors to visitation of their foundations, and at the same time, as the greater includes the less, "that each individual Trustee has his own individual *franchise*," and that "both President and Professors have *freeholds* in their offices: subject only to be removed by the Trustees, as their legal visitors, *for good cause*."

These principles once settled, the way was prepared for receiving from liberal donors benefactions to any extent. So when, some thirty-four years after, Mr. Abiel Chandler (Harvard, 1806) proposed to found a new department, by a FUND of fifty thousand dollars, the whole subject received an exhaustive examination by the highest legal talent, and the Trustees accepted the trust and organized the "Chandler Scientific Department."

Later, General Sylvanus Thayer (Dart., 1807,) donated a fund of seventy thousand dollars for the "Thayer School of Civil Engineering."

Both of these, under the fostering care of the authorities and efficient officers, are adding, like the Medical College, to the fair fame of the parent stock on which they are grafted.

* College seal.

† Mr. Webster, in his argument in the Dartmouth College Case, p. 281.

‡ Similar clause in Yale College Charter, 1745, section IX.

§ Same, p. 14.

|| Same, p. 13.

APPENDIX D.

A taste for Chemistry was thus early formed at Dartmouth, and three Professors of Chemistry are found among the graduates of the first part of the century, viz.:

Josiah Noyes, 1801, M. D., Prof. Ham. Coll., and Fairf. Med. Coll., N. Y.

Frederick Hall, 1803, M. D., Prof. Mid., and Trin. Coll.

James Hadley, 1809, M. D., Prof. Fairf., Ham. and Geneva Coll.

"In the *Medical Repository*, vol. 2, p. 337, 1799, New York, we find the announcement that 'The Medical Lectures at Dartmouth College commence the first of October, annually, and continue ten weeks, on the following branches: Anatomy, Surgery, Midwifery, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Theory and Practice of Physic.'"

"This Institution was established in August, 1798, at which time the degree of Bachelor of Medicine was conferred on Joseph A. Gallup, Bethel, Vt., and Levi Sabin, Rockingham, Vt.; and the Honorary degree of Bachelor of Medicine on Lyman Spalding, of Harvard."

"The present medical officers are Nathan Smith, A. M., Professor of Medicine, and Lecturer on Anatomy, Surgery, Midwifery, Theory and Practice of Physic; and Lyman Spalding, Lecturer on Chemistry and Materia Medica."

At Yale College the Corporation had taken an important step in 1798, thus described in the *Yale Book*, p. 211:

"Already in 1798, President Dwight, in the fullness of his learning and the wide reach of his intelligence, had perceived the importance of the science of Chemistry, and through his influence a vote of the Corporation was passed to the effect 'That a Professorship of Chemistry and Natural History be instituted in this College as soon as the funds shall be sufficiently productive to support it;' and in 1802, it having appeared that the fund was adequate, it was *voted*, September 7, 'That a Professorship of Chemistry be, and it is hereby, established in this College,' and in accordance with this vote, Mr. Silliman was elected Professor in this Department. Professor Silliman writes in his private journal: 'A single room was appropriated to this Department.' " Lectures began in 1804.

APPENDIX E.

Since this sketch was completed Dr. J. D. Smith, the only survivor of the family, has sent some letters of his father, from which are selected a few extracts illustrative of his character as a husband and father:

BOSTON, *December 4, 1796.*

By the time you will receive this, I shall be on my passage to Europe, on board the *Bark Hope*, bound to Glasgow, Scotland. She is a good sound vessel, sails well, and very safe. The report respecting the French taking our vessel is not true, and no danger is expected from that quarter. I am very confident that I shall have a safe and good voyage. Wish you to live as happy as possible. Take every possible care of the boy, Solon. Kiss him often for me. I have no fear for myself, my anxiety is all for you and the dear little boy. Take good care of the house, and be sure that it does not take fire. I shall be in early in the spring, and hope thro' God's mercy to find you and Solon alive and well. If God will

protect me thro' this enterprise, I am determined to abide with you till death shall part us. I am your most affectionate husband.

The day of sailing was deferred, and he wrote :

ON BOARD THE BARK HOPE, *December 17, 1796.*

Now for the last time, until I arrive in Europe, I address you. I have lately sent you two letters, which I hope you will receive without delay. I have in them expressed my love and constancy to you, and my tenderness for the dear little Solon. All my anxiety is for my family. I fear no danger but on their account. I have been very fortunate since I left home, all excepting some delay in sailing, which I do not much regret as I have been able to procure letters and other advantages in this town which I should not have done if I had sailed immediately. Do, my dear, remember me. You are ever on my mind. I am sure I shall ever be happy if I live to return and find you and Solon alive and well. Do be careful of our dear little son. I shall keep you in mind, and hope to return happy. It is my constant prayer, and if good intentions can have any influence on our fortune, I am sure I shall succeed.

P. S.—We expect a fair wind in the morning, and a pleasant voyage. There are four passengers on board, all very agreeable. The vessel is as good and safe as ever sailed from Boston, a fine captain and crew, all very obliging and civil. I lack for nothing to make me happy but your company, with Solon.

GLASGOW, *January 24, 1797.*

He writes: "As the winds and seas are uncertain, and as I may have a much longer passage going to America than I had coming here, I do not like to start till the stormy season is over, which will be about the first of May."

LONDON, *April 28, 1797.*

I wrote you a few days since by way of Philadelphia, and told you then that I expected to sail for Boston in the ship *Hydia*, from Boston, but since that time I have concluded to go to Liverpool to sail, which I shall do in a few days. In sailing from Liverpool I shall avoid the French coast, and of course shall not be so liable to be detained by the French privateers. As I wrote in my last, I have been very well, have accomplished my business here, and am impatient to return to you and to embrace you with my little son, whom I love to excess. God send that he may be alive and well on my return. I am sure I will never leave you again. My country, my friends, and acquaintance will be dearer to me than ever. I shall probably be at home in a few days.

As to the cause that led him to protract his visit so as not to arrive at Boston till about the 10th of September, there remains no record.

After reading the lecture, the Hon. George W. Nesmith, (Dart., 1826,) Trustee of the College, drew from his memory the following fresh tributes. He writes—Franklin, N. H., December 27, 1879—of Dr. Smith:

"It was my good fortune, in 1816, to hear him deliver three lectures. The first was his introductory lecture, addressed to the Medical class. In this lecture he gave the history and progress of Medical Science from the days of Hippocrates down to his own time: sketching briefly the many improvements of modern days, and comparing them with the darkness and superstitious practices of ancient times: illustrating his various positions by appropriate anecdotes: closing his lecture by sensible advice to the students in reference to their conduct, their habits of study, inculcating industry, close and earnest investigation, and the acquisition of all that knowledge best calculated to make them good citizens and useful

in their profession. This lecture was *extempore* entirely—without notes—delivered in plain, familiar language, without any apparent attempt at display, still demanding and receiving the strict attention of his hearers. It is now more than sixty-three years since I heard that lecture and much of what he then said is still impressed upon my memory.

"The next lecture I heard was about one month later, and was specially devoted to 'discussion upon the effects of wounds or injuries upon the head and brain.'

"This subject gave the Professor opportunity to relate to his class many and diverse cases that had occurred in his long and extensive practice. He made this lecture interesting, having a *skeleton head* before him, enabling him to illustrate this class of injuries to this delicate part of the human frame. The Professor allowed the students the free use of interrogatories. Whereupon a certain student, not the sharpest, intellectually, of the number, inquired 'if it would not be possible to transfer *living sentient brains* from one head to another's?' Professor Smith answered 'that he was not aware that a wise Providence had yet pointed out any successful mode of effecting this object; but he thought if the gentleman, who puts the question, could make a discovery of this nature, it might prove of great advantage to himself and many others in this world.' He asked no more questions that day.

"The third lecture was upon 'the diseases incident to the New England climate and their treatment.' Here Professor Smith was much at home in a learned discussion upon fevers. It appeared he had written and sent out to the public something upon this subject. My recollection is he discussed the character and symptoms and treatment of the Spotted Fever, which had prevailed extensively through many parts of New England. I sympathised with his remarks on this subject, and could attest to their truthfulness, because it had visited our town (Antrim?) in 1812.

"He merited all the encomiums conferred upon him by you and more. Many of the good works that he did will never be recorded. The Institutions he aided or established will be living monuments consecrated to his memory, we trust, forever."

NECROLOGY.

Smith, Nathan, b. Rehoboth, Mass., Sept. 30, 1762; d. Jan. 26, 1829, New Haven, Conn., of paralysis, aged 67 years.

Spalding, Lyman, b. Cornish, N. H., June 5, 1775; d. Oct. 31, 1821, Portsmouth, N. H., of chronic inflammation of the brain, from accidental blow on the head, aged 46 years.

Perkins, Cyrus, b. Middleborough, Mass., Sept. 4, 1778; d. April 23, 1849, Rossville, L. I., N. Y., aged 70 years.

Mussey, Reuben D., b. Pelham, N. H., June 28, 1780; d. June 21, 1866, Boston, Mass., of old age, aged 86 years.

Oliver, Daniel, b. Marblehead, Mass., Sept. 9, 1787; d. June 1, 1842, Cambridge, Mass., of a severe cold, inducing erysipelas of the brain, aged 55 years.

Dana, James F., b. Amherst, N. H., Sept. 23, 1793; d. April 15, 1827, New York City, of erysipelas, aged 33 years.

Parsons, Usher, b. Alfred, Maine, Aug. 18, 1788; d. Dec. 10, 1868, Providence, R. I., of acute inflammation of the cerebellum, aged 80 years.

Hale, Benjamin, b. Newbury, Mass.; d. July 15, 1863, Newbury, Mass., aged 66 years.

Dr. Smith left four sons :

David S. C. H., Yale, M. D., 1816 ; d. April 6, 1859, aged 64 years.

Nathan R., Yale, A. B., 1817, M. D., 1820 ; d. July 3, 1877, aged 80 years.

James M., Yale M. D., 1828 ; d. May 6, 1853, in Norwalk disaster.

John D., Yale, A. B., 1832, Balt., M. D., 1846 ; res. Scotland, Mass.

Dr. Smith's monument stands in the New Haven cemetery, and is of Connecticut red sandstone, after the model of the tomb of the Scipios at Rome ; the same with that of Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, and of Ashmun, the founder of the colony of Liberia.

